GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

District Board Elections.

ORDER NO. L. 7199-207— L.B. 161-26-7, DATED 26TH APRIL 1929.

In connection with the existing rules regulating District Board Elections, it has been suggested that the following may be introduced : —

(1) The symbols adopted by candidates for purposes of identification may be of objects familiar to villagers;
(2) Larger size blocks may be used for printing these symbols;
(3) Coloured pencils may be used for marking the votes instead of pen and ink;
(4) The names of candidates for whom votes are not given be required to be scored out;
(5) A large hall should be selected for the polling booth so as to enable 10 or 12 persons to vote at a time, each voter being screened off from others so that he may vote unobserved; and
(6) The polling officer with his associates should sit at the entrance of the polling booth and identify the voters and let them in with their voting papers.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kolar, Mysore and Shimoga Districts were consulted on these suggestions. While the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore, is of opinion that all the above suggestions may be adopted, the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar, has approved of the 1st, 3rd and 4th suggestions only and the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, is in favour of suggestions (1) to (4).

3. After a careful consideration of the matter, Government are pleased to order as follows :—

(*a*) In regard to suggestions (1) and (2), Government observe that 16 symbols have already been approved for use in connection with the District Board elections in the marginally noted Government orders. These have been adopted for the Representative and the Legislative Council elections also and in addition to these, nine more symbols noted in the margin have been approved for these two bodies in Government Order No. 733-746—R. A. 25-26-13, dated the 22nd February 1927. Government direct that these nine new symbols may also be adopted for use at district Board elections. The Superintendent, Government Printing, is requested to have large size blocks for these symbols prepared in bigger and bolder figures as in the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council elections and kept ready for being printed on the voting papers.

1. L. 1330-44—L. B. 25-26-4, dated 24th August 1926.
2. L. 2091-105—L. B. 25-26-9, dated 16th September 1926.
3. L. 2757-9—L. B. 25-26-13, dated 19th October 1926.
4. L. 3528-41—L. B. 25-26-17, dated 2nd December 1926.

(1) Charka.
(2) Spade.
(3) Bicycle.
(4) Axe.
(5) Flag.
(6) Umbrella.
(7) Bell.
(8) Ganapathi.
(9) Hand.

(*b*) As regards the third suggestion that coloured pencils may be used for marking votes instead of ink and pen, Government direct that this suggestion be adopted and that the instructions on the voting paper be revised accordingly. It is desirable that the mark made should be clear and unambiguous.

(c) With regard to suggestion No. (4), it is observed that rule 25 of the District Board Election Rules requires that the votes given in favour of a candidate should be denoted by a cross mark. The Committee appointed to scrutinise the Representative Assembly and Legislative Council Rules and Standing Orders have recommended that a mark may be made against each of the names of candidates for whom votes are given and that against the names of those for whom votes are not given, neither a mark should be placed nor the name scored out. Government observe that it would be convenient if the procedure is made uniform for all elections—whether to District Boards, Municipal Councils, the Legislative Council or the Representative Assembly—and that the question of revising the aforesaid rule in this behalf be considered after orders are passed on the recommendation of the above Committee.

(*d*) With reference to the last two suggestions, it may be pointed out that rule 27 of the District Board Election Rules already provides for the voters voting in a place screened off from observation. Rule 24 of the same rules also provides for the polling officer satisfying himself as to the identity of voters. No hard and fast rules can be prescribed for the manner in which the polling officer should identify the voters.

(*e*) The suggestion of the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, to have more polling centres instead of a big hall is approved.

B. NARAYANASWAMI IYENGAR,
Offg. *General Secretary to Government.*